



07 FEB 2003

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

Anthony P. Cho
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009

In re Application of	:	
EVANS, Michael, et al.	:	
U.S. Application No.: 10/030,024	:	DECISION ON RENEWED
PCT No.: PCT/GB00/02540	:	PETITION UNDER
International Filing Date: 30 June 2000	:	37 CFR 1.47(a)
Priority Date: 01 July 1999	:	
Attorney's Docket No.: 60130-'308	:	
For: LATCH ASSEMBLY	:	

This decision is issued in response to the "Renewed Petition Under Rule 37 CFR 1.47(a)" filed by applicant on 11 October 2002. No petition fee is required.

BACKGROUND

The procedural background for this petition is set forth in detail in the decision mailed by this Office on 12 August 2002. In that decision, applicant's petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) for acceptance of a declaration without the signature of inventors Mark Li and Michael Evans was dismissed without prejudice. The decision stated that the petition was deficient in that it failed to include; (1) a proper oath or declaration by the other inventors on behalf of themselves and the non-signing inventors; and (2) factual proof that the inventor Michael Evans refused to execute the application.

On 11 October 2002, applicant filed the Renewed Petition considered herein. The Renewed Petition was accompanied by complete declarations executed by three of the named inventors (including Mr. Evans, one of the previously non-signing inventors).

DISCUSSION

As noted above, the Renewed Petition was accompanied by complete copies of the declaration of inventors executed by three of the four inventors (including Michael Evans, one of the previously non-signing inventors). These declarations, which contain a signature block for the remaining nonsigning inventor Mr. Li, satisfy the requirement that the inventors provide an oath or declaration on behalf of themselves and the non-signing inventor (see discussion in previous decision).

The submission of a declaration executed on behalf of Mr. Evans renders the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) moot with respect to Mr. Evans.

With respect to Mr. Li, the submission of complete declarations executed by the signing inventors and including an unsigned signature block for Mr. Li satisfies the last remaining requirement for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a). Accordingly, the petition is granted with respect to nonsigning inventor Mark Li.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is **MOOT** with respect to inventor Michael Evans.

Applicant's petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is **GRANTED** with respect to inventor Mark Li.

The declaration filed on 11 October 2002 is accepted without the signature of inventor Mark Li.

As provided in 37 CFR 1.47(a), a notice of the filing of this application will be forwarded to the nonsigning inventor at the last known address of record and a notice of the filing of the application under 37 CFR 1.47(a) will be published in the Official Gazette.

The application is being forwarded to the National Stage Processing Branch of the International Division for further processing in accordance with this decision. The 35 U.S.C. 371(c) date is 11 October 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMR', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Richard M. Ross
PCT Petitions Attorney
PCT Legal Office
Telephone: (703) 308-6155
Facsimile: (703) 308-6459



07 FEB 2003

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

Mark Li
New Hampton Loft, Apt. 3
91 Branston Street
Birmingham, United Kingdom
B18 6BF

In re Application of: EVANS, Michael, et al.
U.S. Application No.: 10/030,024
PCT No.: PCT/GB00/02540
International Filing Date: 30 June 2000
Priority Date: 01 July 1999
Attorney's Docket No.: 60130-'308
For: LATCH ASSEMBLY

Dear Mr. Li:

You are identified as an inventor in the above identified United States patent application, filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.47(a). Should a patent be granted, you will be designated as an inventor.

As a named inventor, you are entitled to inspect any paper in the file wrapper of the application, order copies of all or any part thereof (at a prepaid cost per 37 CFR 1.19) or to make your position of record in the application. Alternatively, you may arrange to do any of the preceding through a registered patent agent or attorney presenting written authorization from you. If you care to join in the application, counsel of record (see below) would presumably assist you. Joining in the application would entail the filing of an appropriate oath or declaration by you pursuant to 37 CFR 1.63.

Richard M. Ross

Richard M. Ross
PCT Petitions Attorney
PCT Legal Office
Telephone: (703) 308-6155
Facsimile: (703) 308-6459

Counsel of Record:

Anthony P. Cho
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009